

2003 Report of Accomplishments Foster Creek Conservation District



Natural Resource Improvements in 2003 – Summary

- *Facilitating HB 2514 Watershed Planning for WRIA's 44 & 50. The mission of the Douglas County Watershed Planning Association is to determine water resource concerns and developing an action plan to address these concerns for approximately 1,307,816 acres in WRIA's 44 & 50.*
- *The continued development of a county-wide Habitat Conservation Plan for agricultural lands in Douglas County to protect sixty-four wildlife species habitat and thirty-three plant species habitat. Twenty-seven local citizens and agency people participate on two HCP Committees.*
- *Implementation of a biocontrol program to control invasive weed species. This has resulted in over fifty site visits with the improvement of water quality and habitat on approximately sixty properties within Douglas County.*
- *Stream monitoring on over one-hundred forty miles of stream in Douglas County which will result in the improvement of riparian area along approximately fifty miles of stream in Douglas County.*
- *The installation of five weirs on East Foster Creek to prevent further erosion of the upland floodplain at a rate of 15 feet per year.*
- *Over ten local citizens and agency people participated in the Lead Entity for HB2496 Salmon Recovery in Douglas Co.*

Mission of the Foster Creek Conservation District

- *To protect natural resources; enhance sustainable, profitable agriculture; and improve the quality of life in Douglas County by:*
- *Encouraging good land stewardship through education, incentives, and quality technical assistance.*
- *Protecting individual private property rights.*
- *Building strong coalitions with other groups.*
- *Including government assistance as a valid conservation partner to agriculture, by providing quality, intelligent, technical assistance to cooperators and partners.*

Water Quality Implementation

- *Implementation of a biocontrol program to control invasive weed species. This has resulted in over fifty site visits with the improvement of water quality and habitat on approximately sixty properties within Douglas County.*
- *Photo monitoring on over 1,000 acres of biocontrol releases to ensure that BMP's are working properly.*
- *Stream monitoring on over one-hundred forty miles of stream in Douglas County which will result in the improvement of riparian area along approximately fifty miles of stream in Douglas County.*
- *The development of a GIS for Douglas County. This information is used in assisting district personnel in developing farm plans and addressing several natural resource issues.*

Basic Funding

- *Foster Creek Conservation District's Annual Rural Landscapes Tour. The goal of the tour is to bring together local stakeholders, environmental groups, local, state, and federal elected officials to witness on-the-ground conservation in a collaborative atmosphere. The tour attracts over 200 participants yearly.*
- *The regional Envirothon this year attracted over thirty area high school students. The mission of the Envirothon is to develop knowledgeable, skilled and dedicated citizens who are willing to work towards achieving and maintaining a natural resource balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.*
- *Foster Creek Conservation District's Annual meeting attracts over seventy-five local residents. Issues that are discussed range from well water sampling, Douglas County HCP, possible biocontrol releases, watershed issue, along with Farm Bill Updates for NRCS and FSA.*
- *Water Quality monitoring with 15 local high school students along Foster Creek. The object of this project is to study the long and short term effects of water quality.*
- *The development of a GIS for Douglas County. This information assists district personnel in developing farm plans and addressing several natural resource issues.*

Local Funding

- *Foster Creek Conservation District's Annual Rural Landscapes Tour. The goal of the tour is to bring together local stakeholders, environmental groups, local, state, and federal elected officials to witness on-the-ground conservation in a collaborative atmosphere. The tour attracts over 200 participants yearly.*
- *Foster Creek Conservation District's Annual meeting attracts over seventy-five local residents. Issues that are discussed range from well water sampling, Douglas County HCP, possible biocontrol releases, watershed issue, along with Farm Bill Updates for NRCS and FSA.*

Professional Engineering

- Survey and Technical Assistance to the East Foster Creek Project.
- Survey and Technical Assistance on approximately one-hundred forty miles of stream in Douglas County to assist the Douglas County Watershed Planning efforts.
- With the voluntary efforts of three area cooperators, five weirs were installed on East Foster Creek to prevent further erosion of the upland floodplain at a rate of 15 feet per year. The weirs are positioned in increments that will allow the passage of resident fish.

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- In cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington Department of Ecology designed and installed multiple erosion controls structures on East Foster Creek to reduce stream bank erosion and sedimentation.
- The Nordby Project restored a section of East Foster Creek to its proper function condition using rock on five weirs, stream bank shaping, and native groundcover plantings.
- Stream monitoring on over one-hundred forty miles of stream in Douglas County which will result in the improvement of riparian area along approximately fifty miles of stream in Douglas County.

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- Lead Agency for The Douglas County Watershed Planning Association is a thirty-five Member Stakeholder Group consisting of 17 members local governments (conservation district, school districts, county, city and irrigation districts), two federal government representatives, three state government members, four representatives from the agricultural commodity/economic groups, one environmental conservation group, and eight citizen members at large.
- The Douglas County Habitat Conservation Plan is being developed to promote the quality of life in Douglas County by enhancing and protecting sixty-four wildlife species habitat and thirty-three plant life species habitat while at the same time providing regulatory certainty and protection from incidental takings for approximately five hundred local farmers, ranchers, and orchardists. Twenty-seven members, representing local citizens and 13 agencies, sit on this committee.

Information & Education

- Foster Creek Conservation District's Annual Rural Landscapes Tour. The goal of the tour is to bring together local stakeholders, environmental groups, local, state, and federal elected officials to witness on-the-ground conservation in a collaborative atmosphere. The tour attracts over 200 participants yearly.
- Conservation Voices Quarterly Newsletter reaches over nine hundred individuals throughout Douglas County. Its mission is to educate individuals regarding natural resources while enhancing sustainable, profitable agriculture.
- The regional Envirothon this year attracted over thirty area high school students. The mission of the Envirothon is to develop knowledgeable, skilled and dedicated citizens who are willing to work towards achieving and maintaining a natural resource balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.
- Foster Creek Conservation District's Annual meeting attracts over seventy-five local residents. Issues that are discussed range from well water sampling, Douglas County HCP, possible biocontrol releases, watershed issue, along with Farm Bill Updates for NRCS and FSA.
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Erosion Control
Headcut Repair –
Before Shot



Erosion Control
Headcut Repair –
After Shot



Biological control of
Dalmation Toadflax
using stem-boring
weevils



Dalmation Toadflax
bio. control release site

